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To Richard Parkin, Sheila Eckman

cc Phil_Brna, Lori_Verbrugge, Phil North

bcc

Subject Completion of Final USFWS Nushagak/Kvichak Watersheds
Wildlife Report and incorporation of comments EPA received

Hi Rick and Sheila -

I wanted to update you on where we are with our Nushagak and Kvichak watershed wildlife report which was included as an Appendix in the EPA Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment, and to also find out about current EPA plans and schedule for incorporating/addressing substantive public comments.

Last March, we contracted for a professional editor (actually a professor and journal editor) to edit our wildlife report. We anticipated that editing the document to meet our standards would be a major task and we wanted to be prepared when EPA was ready to release the final watershed assessment. We received many helpful suggestions and Phil has been working on our report sporadically through the summer. It is now completed pending receipt of public or peer review comments that need to be addressed. Depending on the extent of those public and peer review comments, preparation of our final report should occur quickly. As a reminder, we plan to post our final report on our website when EPA issues the final watershed assessment.

With regard to incorporation of public and peer review comments on our report, we do not have the staff to review the thousands of comments EPA received to determine which are relevant to our report. Therefore, we will rely on EPA to provide us with specific comments relevant to our report. Can you provide a preliminary estimate of when EPA anticipates providing comments and also when you now expect to receive the peer review comments?

Thanks, Ann

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